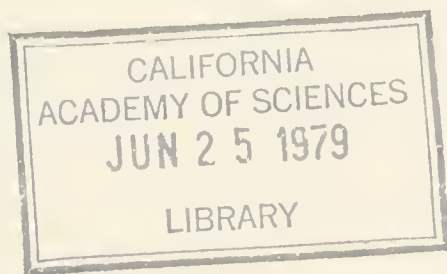


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the gull

Vol. 61

Berkeley, Calif.

July-August 1979

Number 7

Field Trips Calendar

\$ indicates entrance fee required

Saturday / Monday, June 30, July 1-2 — Sagehen Creek. See details in the June *Gull* for this trip in the Truckee area of the central Sierra.

Friday / Sunday, July 6-8 — Lassen Volcanic National Park. See details in the June *Gull* for this trip to the southern Cascades. \$

Sunday, July 15 — Chimney Rock, Pt. Reyes. We will look for the nesting oystercatchers and Western Gulls with chicks. Meet at **9 a.m.** at the Pt. Reyes National Seashore Headquarters where we will carpool to our destination. Leader: Betty Short (921-3020) work. (✓)

Saturday, July 28 — San Mateo County coast. Meet at Pescadero Beach parking lot at the intersection of Hwy. 1 and Pescadero Rd. at **8 a.m.** **Please carpool** to this point if possible because parking is limited and carpooling will be necessary. Bring lunch and a light jacket; the weather can be cool along the coast. Brown Pelicans, Heerman's Gulls and Black Oystercatchers are probable. We may also see Harlequin Ducks, Black Swifts and Bank Swallows at Año Nuevo. Leader: John Zablackis (527-2083). (✓)

Saturday, August 4 — Palo Alto flood control basin. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** for this morning trip to the ponds and sloughs south of the

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Palo Alto Baylands Refuge. From Hwy. 101 exit at Embarcadero Ave. After crossing the freeway turn right at the first stop light, Frontage Rd. Drive south on Frontage Rd. to the second large open area where a large pond can be seen to the left. Park just south of the first large pond in the parking area. Least Terns and Little Blue Herons are among the species which may be seen in the south bay at this time of the year. Leader: Ted Chandick (493-5330). (✓)

Saturday / Sunday, August 11-12 — Mt. Pinos for California Condors. Meet at **8 a.m.** to watch for California Condors at the Mt. Pinos Condor Observation Point. If condors are not present we will try other areas. We should see a variety of other species common to the high mountains of California in summer. Be prepared for hot days at lower elevations. At the top of Mt. Pinos it may be windy and cold. Bring your lunch and liquids both days. From the Bay Area drive south on I-5 past the town of Grapevine (south of Bakersfield) to the Frazier Park off-ramp. If you reach Gorman you have gone too far. From I-5 go west past Frazier Park and through Lake-of-the-Woods to the Ranger Station and be sure to check there for changes in plans due to current information on the whereabouts of condors. Go back through Lake-of-the-Woods (1 ½ mi.) and take the left fork of the road (N.W.) toward the Mt. Pinos Recreation Area. Continue on the main road through Cuddy Valley and the yellow pine forest until you reach the large parking lot. From there take the dirt road to the left for several miles to the asphalt parking lot where we will meet. Camping is available in Los Padres National Forest. McGill and Mt. Pinos campgrounds are both located on the road to the observation area. Check at the Ranger Station for campsite availability. Motels and restaurants are available at Gorman and other nearby towns. Leader: Carl Koford (527-2832). (✓)

Special trips:

Weekends June 9-Sept. 9 — Mono Lake (8 a.m.-2 p.m.). If you are planning a Yosemite trip this summer take a one-day excursion to Mono Lake. Free field trips begin at **8 a.m.** each **Saturday** and **Sunday**. Reservations are required. Led by biologists from the Mono Lake Committee, these trips are designed to educate the public about the ecology of the great alkali lake on the east side of the Sierra. Learn why Mono Lake is a great natural asset to California and why its very existence is threatened. For reservations send your request for a preferred and alternate date with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Mono Lake Field Trip, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541.

For gasoline availability on out-of-town trips you might call the California State Auto Association for more information.

Carpooling: Trips marked (✓) are those for which carpooling arrangements will be made. If you can take a passenger or two or if you need a ride call Kate Partridge at 642-5784 (8 a.m. - 1 p.m.) or 548-0779 (evenings before 9:30 p.m.). Passengers should be willing to share all expenses incident to the trips including mileage and any fees that may arise.

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

May Observations - Through May 31

For us, May is the month of the late spring migrant landbirds and the early spring vagrants. Waterbirds, albeit most in breeding plumage, usually receive less attention. As always, Farallon Island reports are by Point Reyes Bird Observatory. Mainland reports not credited are *fide* Northern California Rare Bird Alert.

NONPASSERINES

Almost all of these species were notable as being present at locally unusual places or abnormal dates. An exception was the adult Little Blue Heron that returned to the Palo Alto Baylands by May 5. Although often seen there, this species is rare anywhere in California. The Green Heron is increasingly rare in the East Bay, so the reappearance of one at Mountain View Cemetery May 7 (DJ) is especially welcome. Two Turkey Vultures over the Farallones May 22 were the first Island record. This species is extremely loath to cross extensive water. What would bring an adult Bald Eagle over Mt. Diablo on May 6 (LW, GK)? The unprecedented discovery of Clapper Rails in Suisun Bay marshes (TH) perhaps reflects increased salinity from reduced freshwater inflow. Another saltwater shore bird unusually inland in the same area was the Least Tern at Port Chicago May 16 (TH). A May 20 survey of the colony on Alameda Naval Air Station found about 100 Least Terns and 40 nests with eggs, with more nests anticipated (TH, LF, DE). At West Pittsburg a pair of Short-eared Owls mobbing the observer (SF) May 21-22 was believed to be nesting there. Formerly widespread, this owl is now restricted to very few nesting sites in California. An adult Mew Gull at Drakes Beach May 24 was very late. Of all ten common winter gulls this species is the least likely to summer. The male Costa's Hummingbird at Alamo remained through mid-May. Six or eight Lewis' Woodpeckers flying south over Tilden Park May 14 (NC) provide another local anomaly.

PASSERINES

Both Farallon and mainland vagrants were concentrated in two waves, with the exceptions well scattered. Birds arriving on May 15 departed that night or the next. The larger pulse arrived May 19-21 and most birds spent two or more days.

We seem to get one Eastern Kingbird near the Mendoza Ranch each spring; one appeared May 31 (MII). The Gray Flycatcher is a regular but rare and seldom-recognized spring migrant or vagrant in the Bay Area. Three reports this May were Briones Park May 10 (JM, *et al.*), Farallones May 15 and Nunes Ranch draw May 21. Other Great Basin strays were single Sage Thrashers May 16 and 21 on the Farallones. A tardy Varied Thrush visited the Pt. Reyes Lighthouse area May 25.

The earliest vagrant warbler was a **Worm-eating Warbler** banded at Palomarin May 4 (PRBO). Only two Black-and-white Warblers appeared: Farallones May 15 and "New Willows," Pt Reyes, May 20. By contrast, Tennessee Warblers were numerous:

Tilden Park	1 on May 12-17
Farallones	1 on May 15
Fish Docks	1 on May 16
Fish Docks	1 on May 20
Drakes Beach	1 on May 20-21
New Willows	1 on May 20-21
Pt Reyes Lighthouse	1 on May 21

Farallones 2 on May 19, 4 on May 20, 3 on May 21, 1 on May 22

Single Virginia's Warblers attended the Farallones May 26 and May 28-29. A male Northern Parula at Inverness May 19 preceeded a female at New Willows by one day. One wonders if either of our initial two Magnolia Warblers, Farallones May 20-21, 23 and Land's End, San Francisco May 23 (AH), moved to Mendoza Ranch, where two were present May 24 with one left May 25; at least all the mainland birds were males. The male "Myrtle" Yellow-rumped Warbler at Nunes Ranch May 31 (HG, *et al.*) probably reflected vagraney. A singing male Bay-breasted Warbler simultaneously enlivened the same eypresses (HG, *et al.*) At least as rare in spring as the last species (though not in fall!), the Blackpoll Warbler (a male) was found at the Fish Docks May 24. Two Ovenbirds trod Farallon ground May 21-22. The **Kentucky Warbler** on the Farallones May 11-12 was only California's eleventh, but six have now been on Southeast Farallon in spring. A **Hooded Warbler** also spent two days (May 18-19) on the Island and Golden Gate Park contributed its own **Hooded Warbler** May 21. The first American Redstart found the Farallones May 21.

Female Bobolinks at Land's End May 16 and Pt. Reyes Lighthouse May 21 were not too surprising, but the male persistently singing in the Big Meadow, Foresta Road, Yosemite National Park May 19-20 (DW, mob) is worth stretchng this column's boundary to include. A "Baltimore" Northern Oriole on the Farallones May 15 was the only vagrant oriole. San Francisco still has its **Great-tailed Grackle**. As if to join it,

California's tenth **Common Grackle** flew into West Pittsburg from the east, lingered briefly and departed to the west on May 25 (DE, SF). Most likely the three Summer Tanagers were eastern, rather than western, vagrants: Farallones May 15 and May 20-24, Fish Docks May 16. As vanguards for the annual June flights we had two male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, El Granada May 13 and Farallones May 20, and three Indigo Buntings, Farallones May 10-11 and May 21-22, Fish Docks May 20. Not far from known breeding grounds in the Delta but well out of habitat, a female Blue Grosbeak at West Pittsburg May 22 was probably a migrant (DE). Two wintering Sharp-tailed Sparrows were last reported from Pine Gulch Creek May 10. With Brewer's Sparrows May 12 and 25-26, the Farallones received four Great Basin species during the month. The Swamp Sparrow at Kehoe Marsh May 13 could represent a spring vagrant, a local winterer or a migrant from West Coast wintering farther south. A Lapland Longspur on the Farallones May 15 fit a well-established pattern of vagrancy for some boreal terrestrial birds.

Observers: Nancy Conzett, Dick Erickson, Leora Feeney, Steve Foreman, Helen Green, Michael Harer, Tom Harvey, Alan Hopkins, Danne Jones, George Kenyon, many observers (mob), Joe Morlan, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallones report thanks to Jerry Nusbaum), Lucy Waskell, Dolores White.

—STEPHEN F. BAILEY, *Observations Editor*
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California,
Berkeley, CA 94720

(phone 548-9507; or Karen Bailey at 642-3327 8 a.m.-noon, 1-5 p.m.)

“Birds of Northern California”

Available Soon

The long awaited *“Birds of Northern California”* went to press on June 4. The 84-page (8½” x 5½”, paper bound) book by Guy McCaskie and Paul De Benedictis, revised by Richard Erickson and Joseph Morlan, is an up-to-date distributional analysis of all native birds found in Northern California. It includes discussion of geographic districts and habitats of the northern part of the state, graphs showing the relative abundance and seasonal and geographic distribution of the birds, extensive notes on most species including tips on identification for selected species, a list of introduced (non-native) species, an update on avian nomenclature and a bibliography which lists not only those works referred to in the text but suggestions for further reading.

In publishing this book, GGAS is providing an excellent addition to the ornithology of the region. The cost will be \$5, plus postage, handling and sales tax, if ordered by mail. Because we do not know at the

time this *Gull* goes to press when the book will be ready for distribution we suggest that you call the Northern California Rare Bird Tape (843-2211) in future weeks — there will be an announcement of its availability on the tape. By the September issue of *The Gull* final plans for distribution should be formulated and full details will be in that issue.

All proceeds from the sale of this edition will be used to support conservation activities of the Golden Gate Audubon Society.

Conservation Notes

IWC CONSIDERS WHALING BAN THIS MONTH. The International Whaling Commission meets this month to consider a proposal for a moratorium on whaling. The resolution is on the agenda for the first time since 1975 and is sponsored by the United States. Other whaling nations are being lobbied by the State Department in an effort to gain backing for the moratorium and the United States Congress is considering a joint resolution of support.

An amendment is also now pending in Congress that would deny fishing permits in our waters to any nation certified as being in violation of international conservation treaties. This is certainly aimed at Japan, the most flagrant violator of IWC convention regulations and a country with important fisheries in our waters. It is widely known that Japanese companies are the secret owners of so-called pirate whaling fleets sailing from nations who do not belong to the IWC. These ships cause the most serious depredations on whale populations, including many of the smaller and endangered species.

Please write the Secretary of State urging him to do everything possible to win a commercial moratorium at the IWC meeting this month and to take all possible steps against pirate whalers, including trade sanctions against Japan.

BLM WILDERNESS SURVEY RESULTS. America's largest landholder, the Bureau of Land Management, has released the results of its initial wilderness inventory for all western states except Alaska. A total of 114 million acres would be given no further consideration for wilderness protection and another 60 million acres are recommended in the report for an intensive inventory to determine if they qualify for wilderness study. In California a bit over 2 million acres — 45% of what was inventoried here — have been recommended for "intensive inventory." This acreage is exclusive of the 5.5 million acres identified for wilderness study areas in the California Desert Conservation Area. The 90-day public comment period is just about over now but public support is needed for the wilderness proposals and the BLM program still has

some way to go. Details are available from the California BLM office, 2800 Cottage Way, Room E2841, Sacramento, CA 95825. Write now for a free informational packet.

HOPE FOR PASSAGE OF NONGAME BILL. A Nongame Fish and Wildlife Conservation bill is once more before Congress and hopes for passage this year are higher. HR3292 should provide more protection for native nongame species and bring a better balance to national wildlife programs, now heavily favoring only sports species. This year the administration is supporting the bill and the funding problem has finally been worked out. National Audubon is now supporting a special excise tax on bird seed that would provide implementation money and would supplement federal funds. This is similar to game management programs paid for through hunting and fishing licenses and tax on equipment.

BERKELEY ECOLOGY CENTER GETS RECYCLING GRANT. The California Solid Waste Management Board announced a \$90,000 grant to the Berkeley Ecology Center to expand its recycling program. The money will be used to provide a monthly pickup of glass, cans and newspapers for residents of Berkeley and Albany. Three specially-designed trucks and a forklift will be purchased. Residents will be asked to place properly prepared recyclables at the curb for pickup on a regularly scheduled day each month. Call BEC for more information — 548-2220.

Americans threw away about 68 billion beer and soft drink containers last year — almost one a day for every man, woman and child in the country. This breaks down to 6 million tons of glass, nearly 2 million tons of steel and 500,000 tons of aluminum.

A national bottle bill alone would save us the energy equivalent to 75,000 barrels of oil a day and cut down the cost of waste disposal — \$7.5 billion in 1977.

— CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

A Pollution Solution

Automobiles—especially poorly maintained ones—are a major source of air pollution. A proposed state law would require annual inspection of motor vehicle emission control devices and necessary repairs—primarily engine tune-ups or replacement of catalytic devices—to attain the emission standards they met when new. Such Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance programs (I/M) successfully operate to reduce pollution in many states and pay for themselves through improved gas mileage and longer engine life. Also, federal law requires that I/M be authorized

for heavily polluted areas by the state legislature. Otherwise, federal funds for highway and sewer projects will be withheld and new polluting factories will not be allowed.

State Senator Foran (D-South San Francisco) has introduced an I/M bill that has been weakened by senators who belligerently want to defy federal law. Those wishing to support a cost-effective program to reduce smog should write or call their state senator and assemblyman (State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814) to support a strong, annual state Inspection and Maintenance Program.

For more information on I/M write Jessica Radolf, Sierra Club, Bay Chapter, 6014 College Ave., Oakland, CA 94618, or call (415) 981-8634.

A Message from the Outgoing President

As I take my leave as president of GGAS it is with pride and satisfaction in this chapter. Our growth rate continues — always the sign of a healthy and viable organization. We remain the largest chapter in the United States. Largeness is without meaning unless we have been able to keep pace and we have. We are still offering the same unexcelled field and pelagic trips, the peerless weekly bird alert recording, the excellent general meetings and the successful championship of conservation causes. All of this has been due to a very hard-working and devoted Board of Directors. It has been a challenging three years but I have thoroughly enjoyed them. There is no need to list our accomplishments. They speak for themselves. From those things we failed to accomplish, we learned.

Now it is time to turn over the reins of leadership to the new president, Bob Hirt — very capable and dedicated. Bob's assistance this past year as president-elect was invaluable and a tremendous source of strength to me and to the board. I leave you in good hands and wish you continued success.

In closing, I want to state that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your president. Thank you.

— LENORE C. JOHNSEN

Thank you

Merely saying thank you to Lenore Johnsen, our immediate past president, could never be an adequate enough statement for all the sacrifices she made and all the hours and days of hard work that she put forth in her three years as president of Golden Gate Audubon Society. A strong leader and dedicated conservationist with nearly inexhaustible energy, she has made an invaluable contribution to our

chapter. The best news of all is that we have not lost Lenore. The official position of past president has been established to provide the continuity and experience to our board that we will continue to need. This generous offer on Lenore's part underlies her commitment and dedication to the goals and objectives of GGAS. What more can I say? She's a remarkable lady.

— BOB HIRT

Looking Ahead

We are looking forward to a challenging but rewarding year ahead for Golden Gate Audubon Society. Conservationists and environmentalists can prepare themselves for some difficult confrontations when the backlash of the energy shortages hits us. There will be renewed pressures placed on our natural areas and habitats to make way for what some will call "a greater need." We must all realize continued reliance on fossil fuels as an energy source is not possible because it is a non-regenerating resource. The sacrifice of wilderness and our environment merely to prolong our dependence on this finite resource is something that any person thinking of the quality of life for future generations must abhor.

There are some things we all can do. Those going on field trips or other birding trips in our membership should try to car pool whenever possible. Staying within the 55 mph speed limit will also help. Using the telephone instead of shopping around by car saves time, money and gasoline. Let's try to take some of the energy pressure off our diminishing wild areas by being energy conservationists.

One of the other pressures that our chapter is facing this coming year is the financial strain of inflation. GGAS is one of the few chapters in the country to provide services to our members such as the rare bird alert (843-2211) and a permanent office with a permanent and highly qualified executive director. We can be instantly responsive to the needs and problems of our members. This publication, *The Gull*, is subscribed to by many of the fine natural history libraries in the country because of the relevance and excellence of its content. We provide a wide variety of field trips both locally and internationally. The point is that these additional services are being paid for out of operating income. The primary source of this income is our dues split from National Audubon Society. In the last year a change in the national policy has caused a substantial reduction in our revenue. It is the goal of the Board of Directors to maintain all present services and make up for all financial deficiencies by special projects and hopefully through contributions from chapter members. We are publishing "*Birds of Northern California*"

and a 1980 calendar to help stabilize our financial position. We are also looking to our membership to assist us through tax-deductible contributions.

The continued success of GGAS will be attributed to no single person or group, but rather to the enthusiasm of the members themselves. I call upon you to get involved, and to become an active part of your chapter. We have openings on committees. This is generally the best way to start your involvement. Call the office today to see how you can help.

— BOB HIRT, President

Address Correction

There was an unfortunate omission on page 88 of the June *Gull*. The name of the town in the address given to write for information concerning Mono Lake Ecology Seminars or to make reservations for field courses was left off. Write to Stephen Laymon, 3290 Ackley Rd., Lakeport, CA 94543 (707-263-6710).

Colonial Bird Register

National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology organized the Colonial Bird Register in 1975. Today hundreds of professional and avocational ornithologists contribute data. CBR computer files contain thousands of records which improve the ability of biologists and planners to follow and predict population changes among colonial species and to detail the locations and characteristics of colonies, permitting evaluation of their importance within the biological communities in which they are found. CBR data also aids in the preparation of environmental impact statements.

The program is entirely dependent on volunteers who visit colonies and submit data. For more information write Colonial Bird Register, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14853. You may look at a brochure and the forms used by volunteers at the GGAS office.

Youth Hostels — A Delight for Birders

More than 2,000 bunks are available at an average cost of \$3 per night to birdwatchers throughout the United States. Youth hostels (open to all ages) are situated all over the rural countryside coast to coast. They are simple facilities where you do your own cooking and clean up and get a bunk in a dormitory.

Some hostels such as the two in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation area (one at Layton, NJ, one at Bushkill, PA) are in major seasonal flyways. From the Old Mine Road hostel at Layton one is likely to see more hawks than at Hawk Mountain, PA. There are other hostels on or near marshes of the Atlantic coast, in the Appalachian Mountains, the Colorado and Montana Rockies and Pacific Coast areas.

For more information write American Youth Hostels, Inc., National Campus, Dept. B, Delaplane, VA 22025.

Enid K. Austin

It is with sadness and a deep sense of loss that we note the death of long-time member and past president, Enid Austin. For years an active member, Enid shared not only her time which she gave unstintingly but also her knowledge of birding. She was a charter founder of the Western Bird Banding Association, a member of the Cooper and American Ornithological societies and a founding member of the Pt. Reyes Bird Observatory. Her legion of friends will miss her.

— GGAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Harold Getz

Gift of
Mrs. Herbert Henderson

For GGAS

In memory of
Enid Austin

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Memorial and honorary gifts and bequests will be used as specified by the donors. Acknowledgement will be made in *The Gull* and personally by the Corresponding Secretary, Minnie Groshong. Please send checks made out to the Golden Gate Audubon Society to: Corresponding Secretary, GGAS, 2718 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, California 94705. All gifts are tax deductible.



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July-August 1979

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Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to the GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post Office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$18 per year (individual); \$21 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$4 per year; single issues 40¢. High school and college student membership \$13.50 per year. Senior citizen individual, \$13.50, senior citizen family, \$15.50.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917, and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

***The Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.**